

Even last night I got a call from a friend. Steve, after fighting off lymphoma, got a notice from his insurance company that the policy for his law office was now being canceled, giving him a lot of insecurity about what his future would be and the future of the people who work for him.

This bill would end that kind of discrimination, the discrimination against people with preexisting conditions, and provide security to millions of Americans, Americans like me with multiple sclerosis and many of us with other preexisting conditions.

This is a moral issue for people, people who will now be able to access our health care system. Mr. Speaker, it is a very proud day to be able to take this historic step and end this discrimination.

WE NEED JOBS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Speaker PELOSI told the American people that the misnamed stimulus bill would immediately create jobs and keep unemployment under 8 percent. However, unemployment has now topped 10 percent, with 2.8 million jobs lost since the misidentified stimulus was signed into law.

Despite these staggering numbers, Speaker PELOSI continues to push a job-killing health care takeover. Clearly, Congress has a case of misplaced priorities.

Patricia Owen lives on Hilton Head Island and owns FACES DaySpa. She is just one of the many small business owners who would be negatively impacted if this takeover is passed. With 23 employees at FACES DaySpa, the Owen family appreciates its dedicated staff. The Owen's service-based company will face more punitive taxes in PELOSI's health care takeover.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism. Thank you, veterans, for victory in the Cold War 20 years ago Monday with the fall of the Berlin Wall.

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HISTORIC DAY IN AMERICA

(Ms. SPEIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, today is indeed an historic day, a day we can all be proud that on behalf of the American people we are doing something.

So what is it the American people are going to get? Well, if you're a senior citizen in America, you're going to have \$500 more in your prescription drug benefit. You're going to be able to get your drugs that are brand name for 50 percent less if you're in the doughnut hole. And by 2019, that doughnut hole will be terminated.

What's in it for young people? Well, if you're good to your parents, you can stay on their health insurance until you're 27.

And how about for women? For women, you are no longer going to pay 140 percent more for your health insurance than a man of the same age. And by the way, you don't have to fear getting pregnant, because health insurance will cover your pregnancy.

And for everyone else in America, we are going to be paying \$1,400 less a year in uncompensated care.

There is nothing to fear. There is much to be jubilant about.

GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF AMERICAN LIVES

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, indeed, this is an historic day. We have a choice today between two bills; one which will have a government takeover of one-sixth of our economy, which will involve the Federal Government into the day-to-day lives of each and every American, or the Republican alternative, which actually goes to the central theme of the problems that we deal with today.

Not only that, senior citizens will be the most hurt by this government takeover of health care; \$500 billion taken out of Medicare, and with not one scintilla of evidence as to where it's going to come from. It will come from access to care, of course. Furthermore, CBO says that part B will increase by \$25 billion, and part D premiums by 20 percent.

I would say, in closing, God help us as the government takes over your day-to-day life.

HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today is indeed an historic day. As the plaque over the Speaker's rostrum says, In our time and our generation, we should do something worthy to be remembered. Those were Daniel Webster's words, a man who served in this House.

We can fulfill the destiny of other people who have served with us in the Federal Government, from Teddy Roosevelt to Franklin Roosevelt to Harry Truman to Hubert Humphrey and to the recently late Senator Ted Kennedy. This is an important date for America when we bring us into the 21st century. We should have been here 50 or 60 years ago.

It is wrong that our country has an infant mortality rate equal to third-world nations. This bill will set out a newborn program that will try to rectify that. It will see that private practice doctors go into the inner cities, with general practitioners having an incentive to go there. With community

health centers in the inner cities and wellness and prevention programs not having a deductible, it will bring America into the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a Member of the United States Congress, and never prouder than this weekend.

AMERICANS WANT FREEDOM, NOT GOVERNMENT-RUN HEALTH CARE

(Mr. MILLER of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I come today to ask a question: Why do the Democrats come to the floor to belittle the hardworking people who protest this government takeover of health care? They paid their own money, they drove their own cars, they weren't bussed here by the DCCC or the unions. They came to say, Listen to us. Listen to us, Madam Speaker. We don't want a government takeover of our health care system.

They don't want their children's future mortgaged to foreign countries. They don't want people who are not here legally to receive free health care. They want what the Founding Fathers and the Constitution wanted and guaranteed—freedom. What a novel idea—freedom.

HEALTH CARE IS FREEDOM REDEFINED

(Mr. RYAN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of talk about freedom and liberty over the last couple days in Washington, DC, but the question really is: The person who is sick and can't get health care, are they really free? If you keep getting sick because you can't access a doctor, you can't get better, so you can't go to work, so you can't make money, is that person really free?

In 2009, we need to redefine freedom. Freedom in America in 2009 means being healthy and having access to a health care system that isn't just for the elite, but it's for everybody.

Now, our people are going to get a 15, 20, 30 percent increase. Businesses are going to get a 30 percent increase right now. This is what we're trying to prevent, an \$1,800 increase for the average family of four if we do absolutely nothing.

We're going to wake up in a few weeks in America, no more denials because of preexisting conditions; no more people in America or families in America will go bankrupt. We're going to fix this health care crisis that we have in this country.

VOTE "YES" ON PRO-LIFE AMENDMENT

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)